

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 295
By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Ferrel Smith on being selected to the Tennessee Teachers' Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Ferrel Smith is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ferrel Smith has recently been selected for induction into the Tennessee Teachers' Hall of Fame, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure of thirty-eight years in teaching, as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, this dedicated professional began teaching at New Brocton School in Conecut County, Alabama, teaching a first and second grade combination class from 1961-1962; she then moved to the Hale County School System in Greensboro, Alabama, where she taught first, second, and third grades from 1963-1969; she then served a meritorious tenure with Maryville City System in Maryville, Tennessee, where she taught Kindergarten from 1969-2000 at John Sevier Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Ferrel Smith, who retired in May of 2000 from John Sevier Elementary School, served the school with acumen and alacrity as a Kindergarten teacher and Team Leader for thirty-one exemplary years; and

WHEREAS, showcasing her excellent leadership skills, Mrs. Smith served as President of Beta Tau Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society, and; Chairperson of Research, Finance, Personal Growth and Services, Leadership and Music Committees; Chairperson of Kindergarten Inservice for three local school systems, Maryville, Blount County, and Alcoa from 1975-1976; and Chairperson of the Maryville city-wide Kindergarten teachers' group; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Smith is a faithful and loyal member of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church where she has served as a Co-facilitator of “Renew,” a Christian discussion group, and a member of the church choir; and

WHEREAS, even with all these responsibilities, Mrs. Smith finds time to utilize her talents and capabilities by working two days a week in the “Food Connection,” and she cares for the elderly, as she takes communion sacraments to shut-in members; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Smith’s superiors, colleagues, students, and parents realize the teaching profession has benefited greatly from Mrs. Ferrel Smith’s many years of service, as she worked diligently with student interns, statewide professional organizations, local church projects, and of course, students and their parents; and

WHEREAS, Ferrel Smith is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who worked assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Ferrel Smith truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, she endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order and cares for her family, friends, and neighbors in multiple ways; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ferrel Smith truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Ferrel Smith on being selected to the Tennessee Teachers' Hall of Fame, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.